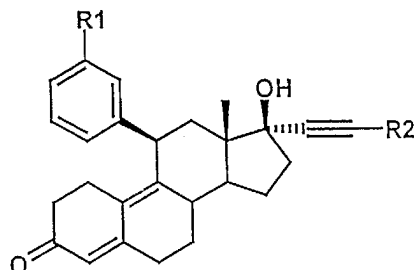


In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 6 without prejudice and add the following claims 7 to 16:

Claims 1 to 6.(canceled)

7.(new) An 11 β -substituted steroid of formula (I):



(I),

wherein R₁ denotes a methyl group, a methoxy group, or an ethoxy group;

wherein R₂ denotes a tert.butyl group, a 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl group, a 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl group, an ethyl isocrotonate group, or a substituted phenyl group; and

wherein said substituted phenyl group has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxy, fluoro, t-butyl, -CHO, -CH₂COOH, -CH=NOH, -COOCH₃, sulfamate, aminoacetate, mesyl, mesyloxy, and pyrrolyl.

8.(new) The 11β -substituted steroid as defined in claim 7, selected from the group consisting of

21-tert.butyl-17-hydroxy- 11β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

methyl-4- {17-hydroxy- 11β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl] -3-keto-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-21-yl))benzoate;

3-{17-hydroxy- 11β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl]-3-keto-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-21-yl))-benzaldehyde;

4-{17-hydroxy- 11β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl]-3-keto-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-21-yl))-phenylacetate;

17-hydroxy- 11β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl]-21-(4-pyrrolyl)phenyl-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

17-hydroxy-21-(4-hydroxyphenyl)- 11β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl]-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

17-hydroxy-21-(4-mesylphenyl)- 11β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

21-tert.butyl-17-hydroxy- 11β -(3-ethoxyphenyl)-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

21-(4-tert.butylphenyl)-17-hydroxy- 11β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

ethyl(E)-3-[17-hydroxy- 11β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-keto-19-nor- 17α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-21-yl))-isocrotonate;

21-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-17-hydroxy- 11β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor- 17α -pregna-

4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

21-(2-trifluorophenyl)-17-hydroxy-11 β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

21-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-17-hydroxy-11 β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

4-{17-hydroxy-11 β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl]-3-keto-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-21-yl}}-phenylsulfamate;

17-hydroxy-21-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-11 β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

3-(17-hydroxy-3-keto-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-11 β -yl)benzaldehyde, (E)-3-[17-hydroxy-11 β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-keto-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-21-yl]-benzaldoxime;

17-hydroxy-21-(1-methoxy-1-methylethyl)-11 β -(3-methoxyphenyl)-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

17-hydroxy-21-(4-mesylphenyl)-11 β -(3-methylphenyl)-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one;

17-hydroxy-21-(4-mesyloxyphenyl)-11 β -(3-methylphenyl)-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-3-one; and

4-{17-hydroxy-11 β -[3-methylphenyl]-3-keto-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4, 9-dien-20-yn-21-yl}-phenylaminoacetate.

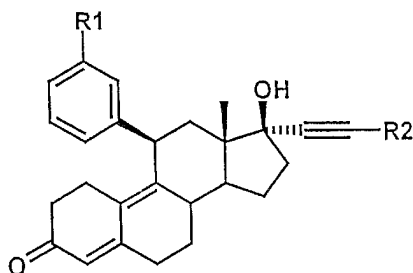
9.(new) The 11 β -substituted steroid as defined in claim 7, selected from the group consisting of

17-hydroxy-21-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-11 β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl]-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4,9-dien-20-yn-3-one,
17-hydroxy-21-(4-mesyphenyl)-11 β -[3-(methoxy)phenyl]-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4,9-dien-20-yn-3-one,
17-hydroxy-21-(4-mesyphenyl)-11 β -[3-methylphenyl]-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4,9-dien-20-yn-3-one, and
17-hydroxy-21-(4-mesyloxyphenyl)-11 β -[3-methylphenyl]-19-nor-17 α -pregna-4,9-dien-20-yn-3-one.

10.(new) The 11 β -substituted steroid as defined in claim 7, wherein R₁ denotes said methoxy and R₂ denotes said -CH=NOH, said pyrrolyl, said phenylacetate, said -CHO, said -OH, or said sulfamate.

11.(new) A method of therapeutic treatment of an individual suffering from glucocorticoid-mediated hypogonadism, sexual dysfunctions, and/or infertility, said method comprising the step of administering to said individual a daily dosage consisting of an effective amount of a 11 β -substituted steroid for treating said glucocorticoid-mediated hypogonadism, sexual dysfunctions, and/or infertility;

wherein said 11 β -substituted steroid is a steroid compound of formula (I):



(I),

wherein R₁ denotes a methyl group, a methoxy group, or an ethoxy group;

wherein R₂ denotes a tert.butyl group, a 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl group, a 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl group, an ethyl isocrotonate group, or a substituted phenyl group; and

wherein said substituted phenyl group has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxy, fluoro, t-butyl, -CHO, -CH₂COOH, -CH=NOH, -COOCH₃, sulfamate, aminoacetate, mesyl, mesyloxy, and pyrrolyl.

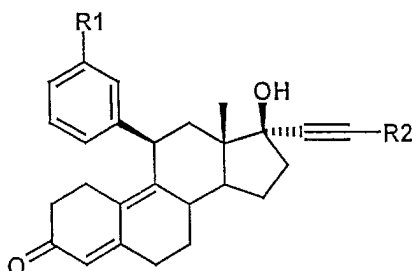
12.(new) The method as defined in claim 11, wherein said administering of said daily dosage occurs orally, subcutaneously, sublingually, by inhaling, or topically.

13.(new) The method as defined in claim 11, wherein said daily dosage is from 0.01 to 100 mg per kg of body weight of said individual.

14.(new) A pharmaceutical composition for treating an individual suffering from glucocorticoid-mediated hypogonadism, sexual dysfunctions, and/or infertility, said pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically compatible

additive and an effective amount of a 11 β -substituted steroid for treating said glucocorticoid-mediated hypogonadism, sexual dysfunctions, and/or infertility;

wherein said 11 β -substituted steroid is a steroid compound of formula (I):



(I),

wherein R₁ denotes a methyl group, a methoxy group, or an ethoxy group;

wherein R₂ denotes a tert.butyl group, a 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl group, a 1-methoxy-1-methylethyl group, an ethyl isocrotonate group, or a substituted phenyl group; and

wherein said substituted phenyl group has at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of methyl, hydroxy, fluoro, t-butyl, -CHO, -CH₂COOH, -CH=NOH, -COOCH₃, sulfamate, aminoacetate, mesyl, mesyloxy, and pyrrolyl.

15.(new) The pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 14, wherein said effective amount is from 0.01 to 100 mg per kg of body weight of said individual.

16.(new) The pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 14, in the form of a solution, suspension, emulsion, ointment, plaster, gel, injectable preparation, inhalable preparation, a spray, or drops.